

4. Subbasin Assessment – Summary of Past and Present Pollution Control Efforts

4.1 Point Sources

One discrete point source exists within the basin, the New Meadows Wastewater Treatment Plant (NPDES permit #ID002315-9), that discharges directly into the Little Salmon River. As part of the discharge monitoring report portion of their NPDES permits, the WWTP is required to monitor their effluent to determine compliance with their permit effluent limits. For the New Meadows WWTP, effluent limits are set for TSS (45 mg/L 30 day average and 65 mg/L 7 day average) and bacteria (126 CFU/100 mL 30 day average and 406 CFU/100 mL instantaneous) to levels at which it has been certified that violations in the state water quality standards will not occur as a result of the effluent. If permit violations occur, the facility is required to notify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DEQ to find a solution. The monthly discharge monitoring reports are sent to EPA and DEQ and are kept on file at the facility.

The Rapid River fish hatchery has an NPDES permit but does not discharge directly into the Little Salmon River. It discharges into Rapid River which is not on the 303(d) list.

4.2 Nonpoint Sources

Numerous private landowners have implemented conservation projects that have resulted in water quality improvement. These projects include fencing, riparian improvements, grazing management plans and streambank stabilization. Private landowners, corporations and state agencies have also cooperated to implement projects that have resulted in water quality improvements. Projects specific to the LSR watershed are summarized in Table 31. This list is not exhaustive, and there are likely many projects occurring on private land without state/federal funding that have not been included.

Table 31. Pollution control projects.

Project Location	Implementing Principal Agency	Description
Squaw Creek	BLM	No new roads will be established on BLM lands. Monitoring, the collecting of water quality information and spawning surveys continue.
Rapid River (Aaron Wilson Ranch)	Gov. of Idaho, Aaron Wilson	Riparian fencing and offsite livestock water development for bull trout conservation.
Denny Creek, Hat Creek, LSR face drainages	BLM Cottonwood Field Office (CFO)	Rehabilitated actively eroding slopes, replaced undersize culverts, improved drainage and reduced road related erosion and sediment from 4 miles of road.
Denny Creek	USFS (PNF)	Protects the Denny Creek Road right of way (IDI 30857) consisting of 9.16 acres from use that causes rutting, excessive snow plowing, and commercial use
Fall Creek	BLM	Sheep bedding grounds on BLM lands cannot be used more than one day during the authorized season-of-use. Bedding must be located more than ¼ mile from Fall, Boulder, Hazard or Hard Creeks. Sheep will not be trailed to and from water.
Boulder Creek Watershed	USFS (PNF)	13.2 miles of road obliteration, 6.7 miles of road closure
Trail Creek Culvert Replacement Project	BLM	Replaced a 3'6" round culvert that was a fish passage barrier, with a partially buried 9'4" wide squash culvert.
Trail Creek Watershed	BLM (CFO), USFS (PNF), Western Pacific Timber (WPT)	Implemented a cooperative watershed plan with BLM, USFS and WPT for lands in the Trail Creek drainage. Reduced active erosion from existing roads and implemented road closure.
Hazard Creek, Hard Creek	USFS (PNF)	2.3 miles of road closure, 4.8 miles of road obliteration.
Hard Creek, Hazard Creek, LSR	USFS (PNF) (Allotment No. 36242)	Alternate grazing patterns and trailing to be used on the Forest Service allotment in the lower drainage. Areas within the allotment leased for grazing includes 3.0 miles of the LSR,, 1.6 miles of Hazard Creek and 1.6 miles of Hard Creek.
Hard Creek	BLM (CFO), USFS (PNF)	Rehabilitated and converted to a trail 5 miles of road located on landslide prone sites. Damage due to '97 flood.
Lower Hard Creek, Hazard Creek	BLM (CFO)	Rehabilitated road failures that occurred in the 1997 rain on snow event. Improved drainage and reduced sediment from 4 miles of road located in the lower portions of the drainage. Converted surface to ATV tread. Reduced potential for catastrophic road failure. Road washout upstream from Hazard Creek has been repaired.
Round Valley Creek, LSR in Meadows Valley	NRCS, USFWS, private land owners, NOAA, IDFG, SW Reserve Volunteers	Planting native species
Round Valley Creek (Circle C Ranch)	IDFG	Riparian planting.
Meadows Valley (Brown's)	NRCS, USFWS,	NRCS has acquired a 30 year conservation easement for the area. Primary restoration actions include fencing to exclude

Project Location	Implementing Principal Agency	Description
Industries, Inc.)	IDFG, BLM	cattle from 274 acres, plug lateral diversion ditches, divert water from channelized side channel into main channel, plant shrubs and trees, and construct offsite watering.
Meadows Valley (Breeswood Ranch)	ISCC, IDFG	Riparian fencing and planting
Meadows Valley (Osborn Ranch)	USFWS, IDFG	Wildlife extension agreement, riparian exclosure and vegetative planting.
Goose Creek	NRCS	Conservation Reserve Project (CRP) fencing a 50' riparian buffer area along ½ mile of stream. 22 acre riparian pasture for inclusion project on ½ mile of riparian corridor
Mud Creek, Little Mud Creek, Western Pacific Timber Property	Western Pacific Timber IDFG, Trout Unlimited	Riparian fencing, planting, livestock rotational grazing. Photo Stream temperature monitoring.

The BLM is continuing with the following efforts in the Little Salmon River drainage:

- 1) Temperature monitoring stations on the LSR at river miles 0.53, 10.31, and 24.7.
- 2) Implementation of the Roads and Trails Maintenance Management Monitoring Plan (USDA-BLM 1996B).
- 3) Implementation of road improvements to reduce all adverse erosion and sedimentation.
- 4) Establishment of additional permanent riparian monitoring stations (greenlines) in key areas. They are currently at the following creeks: Lockwood Hat, Denny, Hard, Hazard, Sheep, Trail, Squaw, and Papoose
- 5) Establishment of appropriate areas as “fishbearing” or designated perennial streams.
- 6) Inspection of Denny Creek Road, as well as other BLM roads, annually after precipitation occurs.
- 7) Monitoring the LSR and its tributaries for temperature and substrate characteristics.
- 8) Conducting fish surveys above barriers.

In addition to the projects listed above that are specific to the LSR watershed, more inclusive projects have been undertaken (Table 32).

Table 32. Comprehensive Restoration Projects that include the LSR watershed.

Project Name/Location	Implementing Principal Agency	Description
All Anadromous HUCs - Upper Salmon Basin (Mitchell Act, BPA#1994-015-00)	IDFG (funded by BPA and NOAA Fisheries)	An ongoing fish restoration project was begun in 1994 to prevent fish entrainment into irrigation systems.
Columbia Basin Fish Screening	Pacific State Marine Fish Commission, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation.	Plan and oversee the environmental, design and construction of several thousand fish screens and adult fish passage facilities in the Columbia River Basin.

As public awareness increases, private landowners are initiating BMPs voluntarily. Those efforts are difficult to document, but have considerable merit.

4.3 Reasonable Assurance

The state has responsibility under Sections 401, 402, and 404 of the Clean Water Act to provide water quality certification. Under this authority, the state reviews dredge and fill, stream channel alteration, and NPDES permits to ensure that the proposed actions will meet Idaho's water quality standards.

Under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, each state is required to develop and submit a Nonpoint Source Management Plan. Idaho's most recent Nonpoint Source Management Plan was finalized in December 1999. The plan was submitted to and approved by the EPA. Among other things, the plan identifies programs to achieve implementation of nonpoint source *Best Management Practices* (BMPs), includes a schedule of project milestones, outlines key agencies and agency roles, identifies available funding sources, and is certified by the state attorney general to ensure that adequate authorities exist to implement the plan.

Idaho's Nonpoint Source Management Plan describes many of the voluntary and regulatory approaches the state will take to abate nonpoint pollution sources. One of the prominent programs described in the plan is the provision for public involvement, such as the formation of *Basin Advisory Groups* (BAGs) and *Watershed Advisory Groups* (WAGs). The WAGs are to be established in watersheds to assist DEQ and other state agencies in formulating specific action needed to decrease pollutant loading from point and nonpoint sources that affect water quality limited water bodies. The Little Salmon River WAG was established in 2004 and is the designated advisory group for the part of the basin affected by the Little Salmon River TMDL. The WAG provides guidance to DEQ on TMDL development and implementation.

The Idaho water quality standards refer to existing authorities to control nonpoint pollution sources in Idaho. Some of these authorities and the responsible state agencies are listed in Table 33.

Table 33. State of Idaho's regulatory authority for nonpoint pollution sources.

Authority	IDAPA Citation	Responsible Agency
Rules Pertaining to the Idaho Forest Practices Act	58.01.02.350.03(a)	Idaho Department of Lands
Rules Governing Solid Waste Management	58.01.02.350.03(b)	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Rules Governing Subsurface and Individual Sewage Disposal Systems	58.01.02.350.03(c)	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Rules and Standards for Stream-channel Alteration	58.01.02.350.03(d)	Idaho Department of Water Resources
Rules Governing Exploration and Surface Mining Operations in Idaho	58.01.02.350.03(f)	Idaho Department of Lands
Rules Governing Placer and Dredge Mining in Idaho	58.01.02.350.03(g)	Idaho Department of Lands
Rules Governing Dairy Waste	58.01.02.350.03(h)	Idaho Department of Agriculture

The state of Idaho uses a voluntary approach to address agricultural nonpoint sources. IDAPA 58.01.02.054.07 refers to *the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan* (Ag Plan), which provides guidance to the agricultural community and includes a list of recommended BMPs (IDHW and SCC 1993).

A portion of the Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan outlines responsible agencies or elected groups (*Soil Conservation Districts-SCDs*) that will take the lead if nonpoint source pollution problems need to be addressed. For agricultural activity, it assigns the local SCDs to assist the landowner/operator with developing and implementing BMPs to abate nonpoint pollution associated with the land use.

The *Idaho Water Quality Standards and Wastewater Treatment Requirements* specify that if water quality monitoring indicates that water quality standards are not being met, even with the use of BMPs or knowledgeable and reasonable practices, the state may request that the designated agency evaluate and/or modify the BMPs to protect beneficial uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.52).

The water quality standards list designated agencies responsible for reviewing and revising nonpoint source BMPs: the Soil Conservation Commission for grazing and agricultural activities, the Department of Transportation for public road construction, the Idaho Department of Agriculture for aquaculture, and DEQ for all other activities (IDAPA 58.01.02.003).

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